

**Town of South Bethany  
Community Relations Committee Meeting  
Monday, October 17, 2022**

***\*Due to scheduled construction at Town Hall, this meeting was conducted remotely via GoTo Meeting.***

**In attendance (via phone):** Edie Dondero, Chair; Lisi Biciocchi, Ingrid Moore

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dondero at 1:04pm.

**1. Approval of minutes of 9.19.2022**

Minutes were approved with one minor correction; December 2<sup>nd</sup> was mislabeled Saturday in the original draft and was changed to Friday.

**2. Public Comment**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**3. Update on Photography Contest**

To date, we are in receipt of ten submissions for the contest. The Committee discussed sending an email blast reminding residents to submit their photos before the closing date. It was also decided that the Committee might consider extending the submission period if needed in an effort to get more participation.

Ms. Dondero shared feedback received from one resident who indicated a preference for a photography exhibit rather than a contest. The Committee did not disagree but acknowledged that with the renovations currently happening at Town Hall, there is no available location to display photos. An exhibit will surely be considered in the future once the building is fully re-opened.

**4. Update on Fall Bulb Planting**

The bulbs have arrived and will be planted sometime in the next month or so. Before the emergence of the blooms, Ms. Dondero will work with Town staff to order a small sign or plaque thanking the Sandpiper Village HOA for funding the gardens.

**5. Planning December Community Event**

Ms. Dondero reported that she secured a \$3000 sponsorship from Comcast/Xfinity for a December holiday tree lighting event. The funds will cover the cost of an artificial, outdoor tree that can be erected annually outside Town Hall. The Committee revisited the discussion of potential dates for the event and decided on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> with an inclement

weather date of Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The time slot of 5-6pm was chosen after verifying the projected time of sunset. The Committee discussed options for music and refreshments for the event. Mrs. Moore will contact local vendors re: availability and cost of hot beverages and cookies/baked goodies for approximately 50 people. Ms. Dondero and Mrs. Biciocchi will identify and contact local musicians. Comcast/Xfinity will have a table at the event manned by their representatives. Ms. Dondero also suggested the idea of collecting donations for a local charity and, after discussion, it was decided to solicit donations for a local food bank/pantry.

#### **6. Other Business**

Mrs. Moore inquired about the cancelled fall bonfire and questioned what will happen to the designated funds. Ms. Dondero suggested the bonfire be rescheduled for the spring, and briefed the Committee on the status of their budget. With the unused funds from the cancelled summer event, she suggested holding a spring event, perhaps on or around Earth Day. The Committee will plan something over the winter months and seek Council's approval.

#### **7. Selection of Next Meeting Date**

The Committee selected Friday, November 18 and Monday, November 21 as potential dates for the next meeting. Ms. Dondero will confirm availability with Town staff and poll the members not in attendance on their preferred date.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07pm.